

2008 Proclaimer

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, .. to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord!" - Isa.61:1-2

A teaching and exhortation medium by members of the Carmichael Church of Christ, meeting at 6044 Sutter Ave. Carmichael, CA 95608

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LETTING GOD BE GOD

Sent in by the Rude's

*Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;
We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.*

Psalm 100:3

If our seeking of God is not reverent, it will be to no avail. We must acknowledge God's sovereignty over us, seeing Him not only as our Creator, but also as our Sustainer and Ruler. It is our attempt at self-rule that has gotten us into trouble, and before God's kingdom can "come," ours must "go." We must humbly, confidently, and contentedly let God be God.

Humility. In a world obsessed with self, the worship of God often becomes little more than the worship of our own desires. We demand God to be whatever we wish Him to be and to solve our problems in the manner we prescribe. But God does not exist for our pragmatic purposes, and Oswald Chambers's warning is wise: "Beware of the inclination to dictate to God what consequences you would allow as a condition of your obedience to Him."

Confidence. Those who seat themselves upon God's throne and try to control what happens in the world soon realize that the task is for a human being as stressful as it is impossible. How liberating it is to "relax" and let God take care of running the universe! The reverent seeker rests in the confidence that God can be counted on to su-

pervise the world without our advice and to bring to pass His purposes without our assistance.

Contentment. God must be our center, the complete source of our adequacy, the One Thing we truly have to have. When we come to understand His sufficiency, and when we unreservedly trust Him to fill our needs for security and significance, we can live with a peace that is otherwise unattainable. Dag Hammarskjold caught the essence of this peace in these words: "Before thee in humility, with thee in faith, in thee in peace."

To seek God, in truth rather than in pride and self-sufficiency, is to seek Him in *reverence*. It is God's prerogative, not ours, to set the terms of our relationship with Him, and that relationship will not be what we long for it to be until we let God be God. "It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture."

A GREAT ACT OF FAITH IS WHEN A MAN DECIDES THAT HE IS NOT GOD

A DIFFICULT WORD

I heard about an office whose answering machine was set up to instruct callers to leave their name and address, and to spell any difficult words.

Early one Monday, when the secretary was reviewing the weekend messages, she heard an enthusiastic young woman recite her name and address, and then confidently offer, "My difficult word is reconciliation:

R-E-C-O-N-C-I-L-I-A-T-I-O-N."

Reconciliation can be a difficult word. It's not that it's difficult to understand. Webster defines the word "reconcile" as "to restore to friendship or harmony, to settle or resolve." The word can be used in a variety of ways, but when it's applied to people it basically means to get two separated people back together again. So we talk about a husband who wants to be reconciled to a wife who has left him. A father who wants to be reconciled to a wayward son. And a lost sinner who needs to be reconciled to God.

While not difficult to understand, reconciliation can be a difficult word to put into practice. It can be very difficult to get two family members who are at odds to be

reconciled. And it can sometimes seem very difficult for us (or for others we know) to be made right with God.

A man once went to a preacher because he was having some family problems. He wasn't a very well-educated man and sometimes got his words confused. He said, "Me and my wife need a **re-cancellation**." What he meant to say was reconciliation, but the word re-cancellation wasn't a bad choice. Because there can be peace for those who have been separated only when sin has been canceled. As sinners before a righteous God, we need a "**re-cancellation**". And that's exactly what Jesus made available when he died on the cross.

"...by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight." **Col 1:20-22**

Thanks be to God for making this difficult word a reality in our lives.

---Alan Smith, Fayetteville, NC

Still Searching

By David A. Sargent

Dr. Christopher, an old minister, went to London to seek for his son who had dishonored his home and left father and mother. "There was no address to guide him," writes J. W. Stevenson. "Only after many days was the name of the street discovered; and when the old minister, with his white hair, stood at the end of it, he knew it was beyond him to go from door to door because of its length. But a street musician came by just then and Dr. Christopher stopped him. Did he know an old tune, one that had been a favorite in the home when the children were young? Would he walk with him along the street as he played? And he told him why."

"So they went slowly, the street musician and the old minister with his hat in his hand so that his face could be seen, taking this last slender chance to find the son who had no use for him; seeking him who had no understanding of the love in his father's heart." *

Similarly, the Heavenly Father continues His search for those who are LOST in sin, seeking to offer the OPPORTUNITY for reconciliation. This offer came at GREAT COST, for the Father gave His Son in order to redeem man from sin (**Eph 1:7**), making reconciliation possible. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (**John 3:16**).

Reconciliation is realized when we: **believe** in Jesus (**Acts 16:30-31**), turn from our sins in **repentance** (**Acts 17:30-31**), **confess** faith in Him (**Rom 10:9-10**), and are **baptized** (immersed) in His name for the forgiveness of sins (**Acts 2:38**). Once reconciled, it is the Father's will that we continue to live obediently to Him (**1 John 1:7**).

"The Son of Man (Jesus) came to seek and to save that which was lost" (**Luke 19:10**). And, the search continues... Will YOU be "found" by Him, by responding to His call through the gospel of Jesus?

THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS

Don Alexander
Jason & Marie & Cayna Anderson
Frank & Tina Ayers
Edith Ayers
Jack & Dorothy Bailey
Margie Buchanan
Bill Cain
Karen Daly
Min Fox
(Kirk's g-mother)
Helen Gray
Chris Heffelfinger
(Christine's dad)
Margaret Holcomb
Chuck House
Catherine Kay
Darrel & Kristie Collier
Dale Lovelady
Jean McCarty
R.B. & June Rankin
Wendell & Irma Rapier
Berniece Raven
(and Berniece's daughter)
Rosie Reagan
LaurieAnn Reagan
Eli & the Roadman family
Caleb & Jacob Robertson
Taylor Romine
Ray Rude
Bill & Rena Schultz
Troy Shadman
The Brad Shuck Family
Ola Thornburg
June Meltzer
(Ola's daughter)
Nancy Valine
Shirley Watkins
Ellie Williams
Kathy Wilson (Folsom)
Gordon Wilson

TRAVELING IN THEIR WORK

Karen Daly
Aaron Robertson
Gordon Wilson

IN THE MILITARY

Jason Anderson
David Lovett
Aaron Robertson
Trent Walsh

DO I BECOME YOUR ENEMY BECAUSE I TELL YOU THE TRUTH?

Gal 4:1-12, 16

INTRODUCTION:

- A. This letter was written by Paul to root out doctrines introduced by Judaizing teachers.
 - 1. His purpose was to strengthen/ indoctrinate them in their faith in the Lord Jesus.
 - 2. Some were trying to teach them that justification was by the Law of Moses. Gal 5:4
 - 3. They were also hearing that circumcision was a faith they must continue. Gal 5:2, 6
- B. Paul describes their perverted state in Gal 1:6-7; 3:1; 4:9; 5:7;
- C. Paul said it was a cause for alarm in Gal 4:11

I. PAUL'S QUESTION AFFIRMS THERE ARE TIMES WE NEED TO BE REBUKED!

- A. Most of N.T. is written to Christians ~ and they weren't always praised for words/ actions!
 - 1. Members need to be instructed, challenged, encouraged ~ for our spiritual growth.
 - 2. Most of our encouragement is to Christians; those striving to grow spiritually.
- B. Peter rebuked Simon in Ax. 8 for trying to buy the gift of "laying on hands." Acts 8:18-23
- C. Paul also rebuked Peter, recorded in Gal 2:11-12
- D. Paul gave instructions in 1 Tim 5:20

II. TEXT ALSO SHOWS THAT PREACHING THE TRUTH CAN MAKE ENEMIES

- A. Moses spoke the truth to Pharaoh but was hated for it! Ex 10:28-29
- B. Elijah was hated by evil queen Jezebel. 1 Kings 18:17-19:3.
- C. Herodias hated what John the Baptist had told about their unlawful union. Matt 14:1-12
- D. Christ's enemies so feared His resurrection they bribed the soldiers to falsify their report.
- E. Jesus had forewarned the apostle in Matt 10:22
- F. And wicked king Ahab said of Micaiah in 1 Kings 22:8

III. MEN HAVE FOUGHT AGAINST TRUTH FOR TWO PRIMARY REASONS:

- A. Some, because they have unconsciously *been enemies of the truth*.
 - 1. Others, because they didn't realize it was the truth of God! Acts 26:9; 1 Tim 1:13
 - 2. God has promised that we can find truth if we put forth the effort to do so! Matt 7:7-8
 - 3. Many will remain spiritually blind because they don't love the truth. 2 Thess 2:10-12
- B. But, regrettably, OTHERS have *knowingly (willfully) fought against the truth!*
 - 1. Jesus explained the reason why in John 3:19
 - 2. Creatures of darkness, physically and spiritually, despise the light.

IV. TEXT CONFIRMS THAT THE TRUTH MUST BE PREACHED ALWAYS!

- A. A compromising attitude will lead us into spiritual apostasy.
- B. Paul gives the progressive, faltering steps in the development of apostasy in 2 Tim 4:3-4
 - 1. "*will not endure sound doctrine*" ~ a attitude of rebellion against God's Truth
 - 2. "*heap to themselves teachers*" ~ differentiating between sound/unsound teachers
 - 3. "*turn away ears from the truth*" ~ will not listen to the truth of God's "good news"
 - 4. "*shall be turned unto fables*" ~ willfully seeking and accepting false teachings
- C. Some of today's attitudes will weaken, and ultimately destroy the church of the Lord.
 - 1. Some feel we should just preach the Bible and leave false religious doctrines alone!
 - 2. A statement of Paul's in our text is very appropriate and important for us: Gal 1:10

IN SUMMARY:

- A. We need to remember that, AS THE LEADERSHIP GOES ~ SO GOES THE CHURCH.
- B. That's why it is so imperative to DEMAND the TRUTH of each and every teacher.
- C. REMEMBER: we only have a right to demand the TRUTH if we're trying to obey it!
- D. To bring us into the family of God we must B + R + C + B = SAL